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abstraction upon a terrace, muse over a chapter, or coin a sentence." So intense was this devotion to books, that he seems never to have allowed himself time for social intercourse, and during the greater part of the day and evening he was separated from his family, even marriage producing no change in this respect.

The life of Disraeli forms a connecting link between the age of Johnson and our own times. His writings, however, ally him with the former period rather than with the latter; for though most of them were published after the commencement of this century, they belong, both in form and spirit, to the literature of the eighteenth century. His poetry, which is the least valuable part of his works, was inspired by the genius of Pope, and it has the characteristic faults of Pope's imitators. His criticism, though for the most part genial, lacked the philosophical breadth and the penetrating analysis which were shown by Coleridge and the Edinburgh Reviewers. His historical productions had the same defects as his criticism, and were mere records of facts, without any systematic attempt to show the relation of causes and effects. In a word, neither as a poet, as an essayist, nor as an historian, does he exhibit the characteristics which belong to recent writers in the same departments of literary endeavor; and when judged by the standard of the nineteenth century, his writings do not take a very high rank. But if we apply to them the standard by which we estimate the minor writers of the last century, his real merits will be more readily perceived, and he will be found to occupy a very creditable position.

ART. XII. — "*Woman's Right to Labor*"; or, *Low Wages and Hard Work. In Three Lectures, delivered in Boston, November, 1859.* By CAROLINE H. DALL. Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1860. 16mo. pp. 184.

TAKE the past together, and woman has had but little to say publicly. Until of late she has hardly put enough on record,

in aid of herself, to serve as a text for the reviewer. Even now that class of literature which bears on her condition is exceedingly meagre. For this reason, if for no other, we cannot be too indulgent towards her in what she now has to say, when she is calling attention to her situation as an industrial agent in the human family. Especially should this be the case when any one, like Mrs. Dall in her present work on the right of woman to labor, leaves undisturbed the more abstract questions of the day, and seeks to interest us in woman, as affected by the laws and privileges of industry.

Her theme is one well worthy of attention. Women are naturally more industrious than men. They naturally work more hours, and work more diligently. To them steady, useful employment is the great necessity of life. There is and can be no assurance of happiness without it. It is the best safeguard against want, vice, and crime, and the most constant and trusty friend of virtue. Everywhere and at all times it is of the first importance that woman should be recognized as an industrial agent, without whose co-operation there is no prosperity and no safety. There can be no real thrift, individual or national, where the rewards of woman's industry are undervalued or lost sight of in the plan of life. What is specially wanted in every community is the natural, untrammelled energy of every adult hand, irrespective of sex. That is the best governed country which best protects each and all in the free use of their hands and their gains, so far as they do no wrong to others. Beyond this, kings and rulers can do but little to mend, though they may do much to mar Nature's plan. If left to the natural laws of demand and supply, women, as well as men, soon fall into their true sphere of duty, doing those things that they can do best, and leaving to others those things that others can do best. Just at this point is the great fallacy of most of the arguments adduced in support of this and that reform in society. The question is not what this or that person can or cannot do. The true inquiry is, Who can do it best? When it is said, that among the savages women were left to till the soil, the only profitable inquiry is, How did they till it? Did they cause the earth to blossom as the rose under their cultivation, or how otherwise? Who

have been the most successful in beautifying the earth, the husbandmen of England and America, or the women of those countries where the stubborn soil has been committed either wholly or partially to them? The question is, not whether women have sat on the throne, or borne sway in one place or another, but, whenever and wherever they have been called to do a certain duty, whether they have or have not generally excelled in doing it.

In relation to woman as a helpmeet of man, we happen to think now of an instance in point, that came under our own observation, and doubtless the statement of it will call up similar instances in the minds of half our readers. It is only the frequency of such things that prevents us from bestowing on them the attention they deserve. Several years ago, in seeking for a summer retreat, we happened to select one in a little fishing village near the sea, which had apparently up to that time quite escaped public observation. The villagers were the most primitive of people, and appeared to be industrious, honest, and frugal, "improving the shining hours" in their way, by giving all heed to business during the fishing season, and when that was over most religiously idling away the winter months, and eating up to the last morsel the earnings of the previous summer. Everything about the village bore the marks of this unnatural state of things. The houses were dingy and dilapidated. The men, women, and children looked hungry, shabby, and forlorn. Even the dogs and hens bore the rigors of the winter badly, and seemed to mark the devastations of that season of idleness.

Now it happened that our advent there was simultaneous with that of a grocer, who proposed to open shop among them, and to act as a medium between them and the great trading world beyond. It happened, too, that the grocer was, quite unconsciously, a bit of a political economist,—a grain from the brain of Adam Smith. His quick eye detected the trouble at a glance. He said to himself, "Go to, now,—if I would thrive, these idle fingers must have work";—and soon, acting on his theory, he began introducing among them what is sometimes called "slop-work." In due time, with his ribbons and his stuffs, he had coaxed one and another and then another

into his service, until the wives and daughters of the village were all busy sewing for dear life. From that he went on conquering, until he accomplished a more wonderful feat still ; for, by dint of diligent urging, he brought many of the fishermen themselves to try their hands at a new duty during the winter months, by which they exchanged the hook and line for the awl and the waxed-end. The influence of these branches of industry on the village was like the bright sun on the chill earth, straightway warming it into life. Before another season had come round, it began to tell on place and people. Here the stranger could detect its vivifying power in a jaunty paper curtain ; and there, in many a new frock and in many a bright button. Little feet were observed to put forth shoes, that never sported them before ; and bright ribbons fluttered around glossy hair that never before bore anything so gay and gorgeous. Under the new order of things, the very houses began to revive, and put on spring attire. Old, dingy walls, within and without, were observed to appear, like the damsels, in gayer and brighter tints. Almost everything about the place wore a new aspect. Many a poor wight of a fisherman, who had been before counted as last, was now first. The hitherto most pitiable man in the place, — he with the precious burden of a dozen daughters, — all at once is found to be the most thriving individual in the village, distancing all his neighbors in the race of prosperity, and arriving by easy stages to the proud distinction of green blinds and a piazza a full twelvemonth before any other one there. In due time the former dingy village was entirely blotted out, and in place of it, little white cottages with front yards adorned its hills and valleys ; while, to crown the whole, a chapel, surmounted with a spire in form and semblance very like a bradawl, gave tone and finish to the whole, rounding off as pretty and as prosperous a little village as could be found for miles around.

† In looking back, it must always be the wonder of history that woman has maintained her integrity so well. In savage life she has always, by reason of her physical weakness, if from no other cause, been a slave ; as civilization has advanced, her condition has improved ; but how slowly, our own laws, cus-

toms, and statutes abundantly show. We need go no further back than our own common law, to see with what disabilities she has had to contend. It is true, that as to the inviolability of her person the common law has been eminently paternal. But not so as to her earnings and her estate. In this matter, woman has been almost as much an outlaw with us, as she was before the white man visited these shores. Witness the fact, that, under the common law, a married woman was, until of late, in those respects entirely banished from our courts. For all that best period of her life when as a wife and a mother she was charged with the most grave and onerous duties, — when, if ever, she needed all her earnings and all her property, — they were taken entirely from her and given to another. For all that time, she was declared incompetent to buy or to sell, to have or to hold, to earn or to collect, to grant or to devise, to assert any rights in court, or to exercise any of those rights of property so commonly accorded to the least of the family of man. Just at that period in her history when she was called to fulfil new duties and to sustain new obligations, and hence was standing in want of new rights and new guaranties and supports, the law took away even those that she had. When, if ever, she ought to have had full and entire possession and control of her real estate, and of its rents and profits, the law stepped in to commit the custody thereof entirely to her husband. When, if ever, she needed her personal property, the law intervened and gave it all to her lord and master. When, if ever, she should have been made free to work and enjoy the fruit of her labors, her earnings were all confiscated to her husband and his creditors. And all this, whether her husband was frugal or a spendthrift, sick or well, able to earn a support for her and her children, or dependent on her for the very bread that he and they craved and enjoyed. What ought to have added to her privileges and her immunities only served to subtract from them. The very act which increased her need of property and the earnings of property, the very fact that increased her need of labor and the earnings of labor, outlawed her to all these rights and immunities. And with these were carried away the advantages and supports of credit.

However reasonable and proper these rules of law might

have been in their origin, it is plain that, as applicable to us and our institutions, if the whole thing had been devised by a commission of lunatics, it could not have been more strangely at war with all the principles of thrift, or with all the maxims of prudence and justice. These old musty maxims of the common law have had their day, have retarded the prosperity of the world, have entailed enough of woe on women and all dependent upon them ; and now, thanks to the progress of the age, are fast passing away. What is wanted is the abolition of all such laws, root and branch. Once place woman after marriage, as before, on the same footing with man as to all her rights and remedies in respect to her earnings and her property, and she need seek but little further. And until that is done, this government of ours can scarcely be called a government of equal laws.

The best way to bring all this about is, not by speeches and conventions, essays and arguments, but by statistics. Therein Mrs. Dall, in the book under notice, has commenced her work in the right spirit and in the right direction. Although evidently a woman of good literary culture, she has shown still higher capacity for her work, and a still better appreciation of the exact wants of the age, by leaving to others the abstract questions, and embodying in her Lectures a large amount of statistics that belong to the subject. It is a book of facts rather than of theories, a magazine of good working materials. The truth is, that the statistician is the great reformer. The logician and rhetorician are of little account any way in the work of human progress. One good telling column of figures, that shows how fields and fruits are lost and won, is worth a million of eloquent speeches on the same subject. A slate and pencil, as reformatory implements, are worth whole magazines of small pica, be they set in ever so taking a way.

The modification of an old law, especially if it is very absurd, is seldom the result of anything but a significant fact. There must be a dead-lock somewhere to produce it. Had all the orators in the land set about obtaining a law to bring railroad trains to a full stop before they could pass a drawbridge, all their eloquence would have been spent in vain. But one fearful fact, the Norwalk tragedy, brought it about, and that

right speedily. So, too, for hundreds of years in the trial of all suits at law, testimony *viva voce* was the rule, and written testimony the exception, while, let the case pass but a hair's breadth beyond the line that divides *law* from *equity*, and, *pres-to*, the rule was changed in a twinkling, and the evidence must all be in writing, or all was lost. And although this rule entailed untold-of expense and delay on suitors, and made the Chancery Court a court of last resort and fearful remedy, no amount of logic or eloquence could change it one iota. The abuse was too venerable to be damaged by such artillery. It came to pass, however, some years ago, that a few resolute members of a certain legislature determined to make an onset upon the system, and to try and remedy some of its outlandish maxims, and this among the number, but all to no purpose. Their arguments fell on listless ears. The members heard as if they heard not. It happened, however, that one of the orators bethought him of the great case in equity of Flagg *vs.* Mann, that grew to such dimensions that the printed volume containing it was a wonder to behold. Armed with this, in the heat of the debate, while pressing upon the legislature the hardships of such a rule, summoning all his energies to the work, he lifted to view the unwieldy volume, and, making that the text of his argument, pressed it home upon them until the whole house was moved to pity the lot of a suitor in such a case, and then to assist in devising a remedy. The stout volume, and not the eloquent argument, carried the day.

Another fallacy of many of our reformers is to believe that legislators will, at all events, attack an abuse affecting themselves. But man has been in many respects as stubborn a disbeliever in himself as in woman. For centuries he would not admit that a party to a suit could be depended on as a witness in his own case. No logic or rhetoric could move him an inch. No consideration of the practical folly of excluding the testimony of the very persons who knew all about the transaction, and the imbecility of attempting to find out about it by outsiders, who, on every reasonable principle, were supposed to know nothing about it, had any weight with him whatever. But in process of time he was to be brought to his senses by a

dead-lock. It happened in this wise. Soon after railroads became a fixed fact, in which every one was interested, it happened again and again that a traveller would lose his trunk on the road, and the company would escape all liability, because no one but the owner could testify what was in it. When enough of such facts had been collected to set the whole thing before a legislature, the stern old abuse had to give way, but only to meet that case. The legislature could see plainly enough that there the owner could safely be a witness, but not one inch beyond. Since that time the law excluding interested parties from testifying has year by year been undergoing modification in obedience to stubborn, unyielding facts. Trace the history of law as you will, and all along its pathway you shall find that the old rubbish of the common law is cleared from the road, just as the woodman clears a cart-way in the wilderness, by removing trig after trig, as they get under his wheels and stop his progress, and no faster. All the rocks and ruts that can be jolted over are suffered to remain.

Together with the disabilities of married women grew up, naturally enough, that other fungus of the common law, the system of uses and trusts, by which the custodian of property was seldom the owner, and the owner seldom the custodian; by which the rule was that the parents' own children, whom they did know, were always deemed entirely *unworthy*, and any one and every one else, whom they did not know, were deemed entirely worthy to be trusted with their property;—by which means every one was made ward to some one else, and the Court of Chancery rested like a nightmare on the whole. That entire system of trust by which woman has been kept in a state of minority all her life long deserves the attention of all who meditate doing her any substantial good. And this too is to be attacked by figures, and not by rhetoric.

Let the statistician be abroad on the subject of trusts, showing just how much property is held in that way; how much of those trust estates is absorbed in trustees' fees, how much wasted in law, how much lost by peculations and frauds; how much heart-burning and uneasiness they occasion; how they affect the industry and thrift of families; how far they contribute to the wealth or downfall of families and nations; and

how far they serve to lay up in ordinary every one who becomes in any way the subject of their care, and to mould and mildew everything they touch. It is not enough that those old disabilities be knocked away; all the briers and thorns that grew up about them need to be grubbed up too, to the very lowermost root.

ART. XIII. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

- 1.—1. *A Grammar of the New Testament Diction: intended as an Introduction to the Critical Study of the Greek New Testament.* By DR. GEORGE BENEDICT WINER. Translated from the Sixth Enlarged and Improved Edition of the Original, by EDWARD MASSON, M. A., formerly Professor in the University of Athens. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. Philadelphia: Smith, English, & Co. 1859. 8vo. pp. x., 708.
2. *Grammatik des Neutestamentlichen Sprachgebrauchs.* Im Anschlusse an Ph. Buttmann's Griechische Grammatik, bearbeitet von ALEX. BUTTMANN, Professor. Berlin, 1859. pp. xvi., 374.

THE first edition of Dr. Winer's well-known work on the Diction of the New Testament appeared in 1822, and was translated by Professors Stuart and Robinson at Andover in 1825. This translation was followed in 1832 by Professor Stuart's Grammar of the New Testament Dialect, of which a second edition, corrected and mostly written anew, appeared in 1841. The work of Professor Stuart is a general grammar of the Greek language, with appropriate notices of the departures from the common Greek by the writers of the New Testament. Dr. Winer, on the other hand, as he is warranted in doing among German students of theology, everywhere presupposes a thorough knowledge of ordinary Greek on the part of his readers, and furnishes them with a critical commentary on the New Testament, devoting the greater part of his work to syntax alone, but treating the forms as fully as is requisite to set forth the deviations from the common diction. The work of Dr. Winer is indeed a grammatical thesaurus of the New Testament language, the Oriental Greek. Even in Germany it is considered as the most complete and satisfactory treatise on the subject, and no kindred work so much as competes with it for the favor of the learned. From its first appearance down to